REMARKS/ARGUMENT

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted to change the multiple dependent claims to single dependent claims in order to eliminate the improper multiple dependent claims and to reduce the government filing fee.
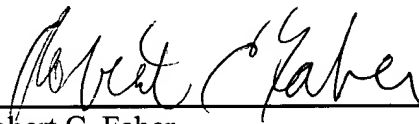
Respectfully submitted,

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RCF/jc

CLAIMS:

3. A classifier as claimed in claim 2 wherein said array of inclined plates comprises an array of parallel equally spaced plates <u>extending across said fluidization chamber</u>.

5. A classifier according to [any one of claims 2 to 4] <u>claim 2</u> wherein two or more arrays of inclined plates are provided, each array being vertically spaced from the or each other array, and dividing the fluidization chamber into zones.

7. A classifier as claimed in [any one of claims 2 to 6] <u>claim 2</u> wherein a feed fluid incorporating particles to be classified is fed into the fluidization chamber between two said arrays of inclined plates.

8. A classifier as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 6] <u>claim 1</u> wherein the particles are fed into the fluidization chamber with the fluidization fluid.

11. A method as claimed in [either claim 9 or claim 10] <u>claim 9</u> wherein said fluidized bed is provided with fluidization fluid at a predetermined rate so as to achieve desired separation of sizes or densities above and below said inclined plates, in combination with selected sizes, inclination and spacings of said inclined plates.